

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 5944

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, EFIN, EAID, CG
SUBJECT: PARIS AND BRUSSELS MEETINGS: CONSULTATIONS IN KINSHASA

REF: KINSHASA 5770

1. SUMMARY: KINSHASA REPS OF PARIS FIVE HELD INITIAL CONSULTATIONS JUNE 7. THE ONLY POINT ON WHICH ALL HAD INSTRUCTIONS WAS TO CONCERT ON DETERMINING SHORT-TERM IMPORT REQUIREMENTS, WHICH BEING DONE IN MEETING OF ECONOMIC EXPERTS TODAY, JUNE 8. ALL REPS HAD SIMILAR READ-OUTS OF PARIS MEETING, EXCEPT FRENCH AMBASSADOR WHO CLAIMED TO HAVE RECEIVED NO WORD AT ALL ON POLITICAL REFORMS. DURING INFORMAL DISCUSSION STRONG CONSENSUS EMERGED THAT DEMARCHE TO MOBUTU BY KINSHASA AMBASSADORS WOULD NOT BE ADEQUATE, THAT ONLY EFFECTIVE APPROACH WOULD BE AT LEVEL OF CHIEFS OF STATE OR HEADS OF GOVERNMENT. ALL SEEM TO AGREE THIS MIGHT BEST BE ACCOMPLISHED BY PARIS FIVE AGREEING ON CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM OR STATEMENT ALONG LINES DESCRIBED REFTTEL, IDENTICAL TEXTS OF WHICH WOULD BE SIMULTANEOUSLY PRESENTED TO GOZ AMBASSADORS IN FIVE CAPITALS AT HIGH (E.G. FOREIGN MINISTER) LEVEL. MEMORANDUM TEXTS WOULD BE SUPPLEMENTED BY INDIVIDUAL LETTERS TO MOBUTU FROM CONFIDENTIAL

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RESPECTIVE CHIEFS OF STATE MAKING CLEAR THEY CONCURRED IN MEMORANDUM'S CONTENTS AND INCLUDING WHATEVER ADDITIONAL POINTS RE REFORM THEY WISHED TO MAKE. RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT CONSIDER MERITS OF THIS TYPE OF SCENARIO. END SUMMARY.

2. LENGTHY MEETING OF PARIS FIVE CHIEFS OF MISSION EVENING JUNE 7 REVEALED ALL HAD RECEIVED SOME KIND OF READ-OUT OF PARIS MEETING

BUT NONE HAD INSTRUCTIONS TO GO BEYOND CONSULTING ON ZAIRE'S SHORT-TERM ESSENTIAL IMPORTS AND ASSISTANCE NEEDS (PARIS 17932). DURING DISCUSSION BELGIAN CHARGE REFLECTED GOB'S CONCERN THAT FOOD NEEDS MERITED URGENT ACTION; IN REPORT SENT TO FRENCH AMBASSADOR GOF STRESSED NEED FOR RELIABLE DISTRIBUTION OF RELIEF SUPPLIES (I.E., NOT BY GOZ).

I NOTED WHAT SEEMED TO BE CONSENSUS IN PARIS THAT EVEN SHORT-TERM ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE LINKED TO REFORMS; ONLY BRITISH AMBASSADOR SAID HE HAD RECEIVED SAME INFORMATION FROM PARIS. IT WAS AGREED THAT ECONOMIC/AID EXPERTS WOULD GET TOGETHER MORNING JUNE 8 WITH VIEW TO REACHING AS MUCH AGREEMENT AS POSSIBLE ON NEAR-TERM REQUIREMENTS. RESULTS WILL BE CONVEYED TO DEPARTMENT BY JUNE 9.

3. FIVE REPS AGREED THAT NO ACTION COULD BE TAKEN HERE ON LONGER-TERM ECONOMIC QUESTIONS OR ON POLITICAL REFORM UNTIL FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS RECEIVED. WHEREAS BRITISH AMBASSADOR HAD RATHER FULL READ-OUT OF SPECIFIC POLITICAL REFORMS DISCUSSED AT PARIS, MY FRENCH COLLEAGUE HAD NOTHING AT ALL AND NOT SURPRISINGLY EXPRESSED SOME DOUBT AS TO HOW FAR GOVERNMENTS COULD REALISTICALLY GO IN THIS DELICATE AREA. ALL AGREED THAT TIME CONSTRAINT MADE IT DIFFICULT TO MAKE MUCH MORE THAN A VERY GENERAL PITCH TO MOBUTU PRIOR TO BRUSSELS MEETING EARLY NEXT WEEK.

4. DURING INFORMAL DISCUSSION OF HOW TO APPROACH MOBUTU, ALL FIVE REPS AGREED THAT TO BE EFFECTIVE ANY APPROACH TO MOBUTU ON REFORMS WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE AT A MUCH HIGHER LEVEL THAN THAT OF KINSHASA
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AMBASSADORS. THEY ALSO AGREED IT WOULD BE HIGHLY DESIRABLE TO HAVE A COMMON WRITTEN DOCUMENT -- A CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM OR STATEMENT -

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TO INSURE A SUFFICIENT DEGREE OF UNANIMITY TO MAKE AN IMPRESSION ON MOBUTU AND CURTAIL HIS ABILITY TO PLAY GOVERNMENTS OFF AGAINST EACH OTHER. SUCH A MEMORANDUM COULD ADDRESS THE NECESSITY OF LINKING FURTHER ASSISTANCE TO REFORMS, PERHAPS ALONG THE LINES SUGGESTED REFTEL. BECAUSE OF THE DIFFICULTIES OF COORDINATION AND LIMITED TIME IF SOMETHING IS TO BE DONE BEFORE THE BRUSSELS MEETING, THE MEMORANDUM

COULD PROBABLY NOT GO MUCH BEYOND INDICATING THE GENERAL AREAS, POLITICAL AS WELL AS ECONOMIC, WHERE CHANGES WOULD BE EXPECTED. THE POINT ALSO COULD BE MADE THAT ONGOING ASSISTANCE WILL NECESSARILY DEPEND ON DEMONSTRATED GOZ IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REFORMS DECIDED ON. THE MEMORANDUM WOULD BE DELIVERED SIMULTANEOUSLY TO ZAIRIAN AMBASSADORS IN THE FIVE CAPITALS AT AN APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL -- E.G. FOREIGN MINISTER -- AND WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY INDIVIDUAL LETTERS TO MOBUTU FROM THE RESPECTIVE CHIEFS OF STATE OR HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MAKING CLEAR THE LATTERS' COMPLETE ADHERENCE TO THE MEMORANDUM'S CONTENTS. EITHER IN THESE LETTERS OR ORALLY, EACH GOVERNMENT COULD MAKE WHATEVER ELABORATION OR ADDITIONAL POINTS IT WISHED; ALTERNATIVELY, THIS COULD BE DONE BY THE

AMBASSADORS IN KINSHASA.

5. THE POSSIBLE SCENARIO OUTLINED ABOVE REFLECTS STRICTLY
UNOFFICIAL BRAIN-STORMING AMONG THE FIVE REPS HERE. HOWEVER, I
BELIEVE THIS KIND OF APPROACH HAS SOME MERIT AND RECOMMEND THAT
IT -- OR SOME VARIATIONS OF IT -- BE CONSIDERED BY THE DEPARTMENT.
CUTLER

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